

## SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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### TERRORISM

#### **King Abdullah calls family of killed Saudi diplomat**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz telephoned Misfer Al-Qahtani on May 17 to express his condolences and sympathy for the death of his son, Sgt. Maj. Hassan Al-Qahtani, who was a staff member of the Saudi Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. Earlier, Maj. Gen. Muhammad Al-Omani, commander of the Special Security Forces, visited the family of Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani and conveyed the condolences of Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, and those of Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Interior. Maj. Gen. Al-Omani presented the family with a check for SR 100,000 (\$26,667) as emergency assistance to the family.

Brig. Abdullah Al-Thumali, Director of Public Relations for the Special Security Forces, said a number of royal decrees have been issued pertaining to Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani's family: Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani has been posthumously promoted to the next rank; his family will continue to receive his full salary and benefits; he will be awarded the King Abdul-Aziz Medal, Third Class, in addition the Medal of Honor. Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani's family will receive a house worth up to SR 500,000 (\$133,334) in a location of their choosing; his parents will each receive a monthly stipend of SR 3,000 (\$800); and the government will payoff any of Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani's debts, if any, up to SR 500,000 (\$133,334).

The body of Sgt. Maj. Hassan Al-Qahtani was received at King Khalid International Airport on May 16 by Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Affairs; Prince Khalid bin Saud bin Khalid, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Ambassador Alaa El-Din Al-Askari, Deputy Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Protocol Affairs. Sgt. Maj. Al-Qahtani's body arrived in Riyadh on a private plane accompanied by the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, Abdulaziz Al-Ghadeer.

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### **King Abdullah makes new appointments**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz issued a number of royal decrees on May 20 making the following changes: relieving President of the Court of Grievances Sheikh Ibrahim bin Shaya Al-Huqail from his post and appointing Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Nassar as President of the Court of Grievances at the rank of a minister; relieving Deputy Minister of

Higher Education Dr. Ali bin Suleiman Al-Attiyah from his post and appointing Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Seef, Director of Ha'il University, as Deputy Minister of Higher Education at the excellent rank; and appointing Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Darrab as Governor of the Communication and Information Technology Commission at the excellent rank.

King Abdullah accepted the retirement of Chief of the General Staff Field Marshal Saleh Al-Muhaya and appointed his Deputy Lieutenant General Hussein bin Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Qabeel Chief of the General Staff with the rank of Field Marshal; appointed Commander of Ground Forces Lieutenant General Abdurrahman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Murshid Deputy Chief of the General Staff, and promoted Major General Khalid bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed him Commander of Ground Forces.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### **GCC suspends Yemen peace initiative**

Saudi Arabia announced on May 23 that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has suspended its initiative to resolve the crisis in Yemen for a lack of appropriate circumstances for its approval. The Kingdom expressed hope that all parties will sign the initiative as soon as possible to ensure the implementation of the agreement, overcome the crisis in Yemen and achieve comprehensive consensus that maintains security and stability in that country.

## SAUDI – U.S. RELATIONS

### **Saudi Embassy hosts Saudi-U.S. health symposium**

The Saudi Arabia Embassy hosted the second annual Saudi-U.S. Health Bridge Symposium on May 24. The symposium was sponsored by the General Directorate of Medical Services Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia and the Medical Services Section Armed Forces of the United States. The conference was developed to help physicians from both nations build a larger network of doctors for use on international and domestic levels. Together, they work to determine how to enhance medical care around the world, improve clinical performance outcomes and build bridges to solve global health care issues.

"We are very proud of our Saudi students and our officers who have gone through the first envoy program," said Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir while addressing the audience. "It is truly a bridge between our two countries and it is a bridge that prepares people for healing and extending life and improving quality of life."



**For Immediate Release**

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**EQUATORIAL GUINEA LAUNCHES RURAL ROOFING PROGRAM**  
*Minister of Agriculture says new Zinc Roofs will Improve Health and Living Standards*

**MALABO, Equatorial Guinea** (May 19, 2011) — The government of Equatorial Guinea has launched a project to replace improve traditional housing by installing zinc roofs on more than 30,000 houses. Roughly 100,000 Equatorial Guineans will benefit from zinc roofs, which will replace traditional roofs made of the fronds of the nipa palm.

The project, which arose as a result of a survey carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, under Minister Teodoro Nguema Obiang, is aimed at upgrading homes in rural areas and will be carried out throughout the national territory.

Zinc roofs last longer than nipa roofs and allow better protection from the elements. Nipa roofs also can harbor rats, insects, and other vermin and can pose a health hazard to residents, particularly children.

"This is an important project that will quickly improve the standard of living in rural areas," said Minister Nguema. "Through efforts like these, Equatorial Guinea is rapidly developing its infrastructure. Improving health and opportunity in rural areas is a top priority for the Ministry of Agriculture. We hope this will serve as an example for other countries to follow.

***About Equatorial Guinea***

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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